Sale of rice and wheat by FCI

220. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and in first ten months of the year 2002-03 Food Corporation of India had sold rice and wheat for domestic use as well as for export at the price lower than the economic costs;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat and rice sold for domestic use as well as for export along with the sale price during the above period; and

(c) the economic costs of wheat and rice in the Food Corporation of India during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Food Corporation of India meets the domestic requirement of foodgrains through distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System; supply through various welfare schemes and also through sale under Open Market Sale (Schemes) at the prices fixed from time to time.

Foodgrains are also being offered for export at the Open Market Sales Schemes (Domestic) price of the FCI. However, post-delivery and other WTO compatible expenses are allowed to exporters.

The details of wheat and rice sold from the Central Pool through the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) and for exports, year-wise are as under:

(Provisional)
(in lakh MTs)

Year	OMSS(D) & Exports*	
	Wheat	Rice
2000-01	29.78	3.86
2001-02	91.40	23.86
2002-03	92.34	62.87

*OMSS(D) figures are upto December, 2002 and Export figures are upto January, 2003. OMSS(D) figures also include tender sale.

(c) The economic cost of wheat and rice is as under:

Rate Rs./Qtls.

Year	Wheat	Rice
2000-01	829.64	1148.07
2001-02	871.30	1204.35
2002-03	891.73	1223.17

Paddy farmers in Orissa

221. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the paddy farmers of Jeypore Sub-division of Orissa, have been facing harassment at the hands of officials responsible for procurement of paddy and the farmers have been forced to sell their produce at throwaway prices, as reported in the New Indian Express dated the 30th December, 2002; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to direct the FCI officials to procure paddy at the fixed rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The State Government has reported that it is not a fact that the paddy farmers of Jeypore Sub-division of Orissa have been facing harassment at the hands of officials responsible for collection of paddy and the farmers have been forced to sell their produce at throwaway prices. It has further been reported that 20,000 MTs of paddy has already been purchased in Jeypore Sub-division by the miller agents appointed by the State Government on payment of MSP.

(b) The FCI has opened 20 paddy purchase centres in 6 Revenue Districts of Orissa during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-03 to extend the benefits of MSP to the farmers. Instructions have been issued to the FCI to ensure that necessary proof/documents are obtained from the millers at the time of procurement of levy rice to ensure that the benefit of MSP/special drought relief price has been passed on to the farmers.